

**CLAIMS**

1. A viewing system (150), comprising acquisition means (151) for acquiring a sequence of images (IS), detection means (20) for detecting an object of interest (2, 17) in said sequence of images (IS),  
5                   said detection means (20) comprising:
  - localizer detection sub-means (30) for detecting a location ( $L_1, L_2$ ) of localizers related to said object of interest,
  - border detection sub-means (60) for detecting a location of borders (BL) related to said object of interest, using said location of localizers,  
10                   and viewing means (154) for displaying said sequence of images (IS).
2. A viewing system (150) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said border detection sub-means (60) comprise:  
15
  - initialization sub-means (61) for building an initial contour (EIC, RIC) of said borders, containing said localizers ( $L_1, L_2$ ), from a priori knowledge about said object of interest,
  - active contour sub-means (62) for moving said initial contour (EIC, RIC) under the effect of forces related to said object of interest (2, 17) within said  
20                   sequence of images (IS).
3. A viewing system (150) as claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising enhancement means (70) for enhancing said borders using said location of borders (BL) and delivering a sequence of enhanced images (EIS).  
25
4. A viewing system (150) as claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising measurement means (71) for measuring characteristics (CM) of said object of interest using said location of borders (BL).  
30
5. A viewing system (150) as claimed in claim 4, wherein said characteristics (CM) are widths of said object of interest along a length of said object of interest.
6. A viewing system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said acquisition means (151) are able to acquire at least two views of said object of interest, said viewing system

also comprising 3D representation means (72) for delivering a 3D representation (3DR) of said object of interest from said views and said location of borders (BL).

7. A viewing system as claimed in claim 6, wherein a cylindrical model is used by said 5 3D representation means (72) when said object of interest has a tubular shape.
8. A viewing system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said object of interest is a stenosis (2) or a stent (17) and said localizers are a tip (9) or balloon markers (13, 14).

10

9. A viewing system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said viewing means (154) also comprise local registering means (80) for registering a sequence of reference images (RIS(n)) with respect to said sequence of enhanced images (EIS, EIS(t)) so as to form 15 a new sequence of enhanced images (NEIS(t)), in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined.

15

10. A viewing system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said viewing means (154) also comprise local registering means (80) for registering said sequence of enhanced 20 images (EIS, EIS(t)) with respect to a sequence of reference images (RIS(n)) so as to form a new sequence of reference images (NRIS(n)), in which said sequence of enhanced images and said sequence of reference images are combined.

20

11. A method, comprising a detection step (20) for detecting an object of interest in a 25 sequence of images (IS), said detection step comprising sub-steps of:

25

- localizer detection (30) for detecting a location of localizers ( $L_1, L_2$ ) related to said object of interest,
- border detection (60) for detecting a location of borders (BL) related to said object of interest, using said location of localizers.

30

12. A device (153) comprising detection means (20) for detecting an object of interest in a sequence of images (IS), said detection means comprising:
  - localizer detection sub-means (30) for detecting a location of localizers related to said object of interest,

- border detection sub-means (60) for detecting a location of borders (BL) related to said object of interest, using said location of localizers.

5    13. A computer program comprising a set of instructions for implementing a method as claimed in claim 11 when said program is executed by a processor.

14. A medical examination imaging apparatus comprising a viewing system (150) as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 10.